

REMARKS

By the *Office Action* of 24 June 2004, Claims 1-20 are pending in the Application, and all rejected. By the present *Response and Amendment*, the Applicant submits *Replacement Sheets* for the figures, amends the *Specification*, and amends Claims 1 and 19-20.

No new matter is believed introduced by the present *Response and Amendment*. It is respectfully submitted that the present Application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

1. Priority

This application is a continuation of a PCT Application, which itself has priority to a Netherlands patent application. The chain of benefit is evidenced by the published PCT application that was filed with the present application, and resubmitted herein for convenience as Attachment 1.

The chain of benefit was brought into the US under the *Request for Filing a Continuation of an International Application Cover Sheet* submitted with the present application, which requested the application be amended with a benefit claim to the PCT. The *Cover Sheet* also requested §119 priority to the Netherlands application, which was improper, as the benefit of the filing date of the Netherlands application for this continuation is provided under §§ 120 and 365.

In order to clear up any ambiguity as to priority of this application and its effective filing date, a Benefit Claim is added herein, which respectfully supplants the Benefit Claim, if any, added to the application by the *Cover Letter* request.

2. The Drawings

The Drawings are objected to. The Examiner states that the plane upon which a sectional view is taken should be indicated on the view from which the section is cut by broken lines and the lines should be designated by Arabic or Roman numerals corresponding to the view number of the section view.

All the originally-filed drawing sheets are replaced herein.

The *Replacement Sheet* for Fig. 3a amends the cross sectional line with new reference

$\Pi_3-\Pi_4$, as the cross sectional line is part of Fig. 3a. The *Specification* is amended to reflect this change as well.

Replacement Sheets for all the originally-filed figures are submitted herein, replacing the hand-written reference numerals by type-written numerals.

If the *Replacement Sheets* are accepted, they will be formally filed prior to issuance in a mailed correspondence for clarity, as opposed to this facsimile-filed *Response and Amendment*. Such mailed figures will then be clean of facsimile markings.

3. The Specification

The *Specification* is objected to as to the identification of the cross-sectional line A-A. This objection is now believed overcome with the change to this reference, and the *Specification* is further amended to add the Benefit Claim.

4. Rejection Of The Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner notes that "the transition region (33)" of Claim 1 lacks antecedent basis. Accordingly, the phrase "the transition region (33)" is replaced by the phrase "*a transition region (33) between the supporting surface and the pulley sheave contact surface*".

Claim 1 is further amended as the word "of" was inadvertently missing from the last portion of the Claim. The word "of" is herein placed between the phrases "at the side" and "the pulley sheave contact surface".

Claim 19 is amended in accordance with the Examiner's kind suggestions. Claim 20 also is amended.

It is believed these amendments overcome the indefiniteness rejection.

5. Rejection Of The Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by JP (2001-317594). JP (2001-317594) has a publication date of 16 November 2001, which is subsequent to the priority filing date (effective filing date) of the present application, being 16 January 2001, the date of filing of the NL application. As the date of the reference is subsequent the effective filing

date of the present application, it is believed JP (2001-317594) is not prior art against this application.

Should ambiguity remain about the chain of priority of the present application as established in the priority claim made in the *Request for Filing a Continuation of an International Application Cover Sheet*, and as evidenced by the *Official Filing Receipt*, it is presently clarified in the *Specification*, as it is herein amended to make clear the effective filing date of the present application is 16 January 2001.

It is thus believed this ground of rejection is overcome.

6. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 5-18 are rejected under USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP (2001-317594). As shown above, this reference is not prior art to this application, and this ground of rejection thus believed overcome.

Claims 2-3 are rejected under USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP (2001-317594) in view of JP (10-213185). As shown above, since JP (2001-317594) is not prior art to this application, this ground of rejection is also believed overcome.

7. Fees

No Claims fees are due, as the total number of Claims, and independent Claims, remains the same as upon original filing.

Further, this *Response and Amendment* is being filed within three months of the *Office Action*. Thus, it is believed no extension of time fees are due.

Nonetheless, authorization to charge deposit account No. 20-1507 is given herein should fees be due.

CONCLUSION

By the present *Response and Amendment*, the Application has been in placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable action. Should the Examiner have any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney at 404.885.2773.

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Pamela G. Mashburn

Name of Applicant Assignee, or

Registered Representative to

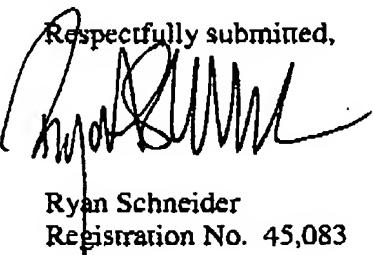
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17 September 2004

Date

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